

## MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# NEWS



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 16, 2001**

**4:00 P.M.**

**SUBJECT: SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADOES PROMPT EMERGENCY ACTIONS**

(Jackson) – Gov. Ronnie Musgrove has declared a State of Emergency for Mississippi in connection with the severe weather and tornadoes that are moving through the state. The declaration covers any part of the state that may be impacted by the storms.

Extensive wind and tree damage along with power lines down in Holmes and Lowndes counties has been reported to MEMA from the local county officials.

The damage reports from Oktibbeha County include down power lines, trees snapped, street signs blown away, and loss of communication equipment throughout the county. The town of Sturgis reported over turned cars and extensive damage to homes and building along with a power outage. Mississippi State University also reported building and structural damage on the campus. Assistance is being provided by MEMA to Oktibbeha county officials to help with the damaged areas.

Yazoo County reported a power outage in the city and in areas throughout the county. Local officials and representatives from MEMA are evaluating the damaged areas. MEMA has reported down trees and power lines and extensive damage to homes and businesses.

Other areas throughout the State have experienced wind and roof damage and power failures. All steps are being taken to protect the health and safety of the residents and to the protection of property within the affected areas. Persons who might need assistance as a result of the severe weather and tornadoes are directed to their local American Red Cross chapters, to their local emergency management/civil defense offices or to MEMA.

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